

## EDITORIAL

### CURRENT EVENTS: THE DRIFT OF THINGS AS WE SEE IT.

Last week was not an eventful one in the Far East. The Japanese did make it pretty clear, however, that the sinking of the Petropavlovsk was not an accident, but the result of skilful war tactics on their own part; they placed the mine which destroyed the great Russian vessel. And there is also increasing recognition of the heavy loss which the Czar's cause has suffered in the death of Admiral Makaroff. He appears to have been the only officer of eminent ability in the Russian navy. But Russian ill luck did not end with his death. Saturday's dailies report the loss of another small vessel by mine explosion, 21 men being killed.

#### New York Instructs for Parker.

Probably no other single event in America last week attracted so much attention as the meeting of the New York Democratic Convention on Monday. There was a vigorous struggle between the Tammany and Hill factions over the question of instructing delegates to vote as a unit for Judge Parker for the Presidential nomination, but, as had been expected, Hill won by a vote of 301 to 149, and the delegates go instructed. It is said that the Tammany leader wished to be free to present Mayor McClellan as a candidate. As to whether or not the defeat of Tammany's wishes will lessen its ardor in campaign work, it doth not yet appear.

Meanwhile, Judge Parker maintains a silence impenetrable and Sphinx-like, shielding himself from public gaze with the ermine of the bench. He is clearly a candidate whose personality will not arouse the enthusiasm of his followers; but it is to be remembered that a man whose personality counts for little and who is not profoundly stirred by his political beliefs is the only kind of man on whom the warring factions of the party could unite.

#### The Attitude of Mr. Bryan.

Mr. William Jennings Bryan, however, is not one of those who regard it as all-important that the factions shall unite. Party success, he says, is a small matter compared with party integrity. And he has declared his opposition to Judge Parker and the decidedly colorless platform adopted by Judge Parker's supporters Monday. Says Mr. Bryan: "I do not think the instructions will give Judge Parker any additional strength, but the platform adopted by the convention ought to defeat his nomination unless the Democrats, when they assemble at St. Louis, decide to adopt a confidence game on the public."

#### Cotton Growing and Cotton Milling.

The final detailed report of the Census Bureau as to cotton ginning for the 1903 crop was issued last week. Its most notable feature is the showing that by threshing unopened bolls injured by frosts or insects, 37,695 bales were added to the crop of Texas and adjoining States—meaning nearly \$2,000,000 more to the cotton growers. The estimate is also made that the boll weevil (now in 96 of the 178 cotton-producing counties of Texas) caused a loss of 740,000 bales, worth with the seed, \$50,000,000. This will give our readers an idea of how colossal would be the loss should this pest ever cover the entire cotton belt.

And just at cotton-planting time (in North Carolina at least) there come disconcerting rumors of mills curtailing production. "Within the last three weeks," says a Boston dispatch, "numerous concerns, although running on full time, have been reducing the consumption of cotton and consequently the production. The recently developed tendency towards lower prices

for cloth and the indifferent demand for many lines of goods have induced manufacturers to proceed with caution, and in some cases orders have gone forth from local mill officers to run the machinery on short time. As the season advances further retirement is expected, unless the situation indicates an early improvement." A North Carolina manufacturer tells us that Southern mills generally are making similar preparations for curtailing production.

#### Two New States.

The House of Representatives last week did its part of the task of adding two more stars to our flag. The House bill provides for the union of Oklahoma and Indian Territory as one State under the name of Oklahoma, and of New Mexico and Arizona as one State under the name of Arizona. This is a rather unusual proceeding—probably the first time in our history when separate territorial organizations have been merged in order to make States. But the Nation has learned something from its experience with Nevada—a full-fledged State with two representatives in the United States Senate, but with a population smaller than that of Wake County! Thus instead of making one Territory into two States (as was done with Dakota in 1890), we now make two Territories into one State. Oklahoma, we observe, is expected to be Democratic, and Arizona Republican.

#### Self-Disfranchised Voters.

Our North Carolina politicians in both parties are now making a strenuous effort to hasten the payment of poll tax by their respective followers. And there is need for such work. Says the Wilmington Star: "We noted a few days ago that in Wake County, 420 citizens have failed to pay their poll tax, and here is Guilford County with 1,000 white delinquents. Forsyth County comes to the front with about 1,300 who have not paid the tax, and from the Charlotte News we learn that out of a voting population of 5,500, Mecklenburg has 2,000 citizens who have overlooked the payment of their poll tax." And when it is remembered that no voter whose poll tax remains unpaid Saturday night of this week (for May 1st this year is Sunday with closed tax books), it is very clear that we are to have many thousand self-disfranchised white men this year. Nor is this an unusual result of our Southern suffrage-restriction laws. In Alabama, we observe, 47,000 white voters lost the right of suffrage in this way last year, and it is estimated that the number will reach 60,000 this year. And from Texas comes the surprising news that a larger proportion of negroes than of whites have complied with the legal requirement for the payment of taxes.

#### DO YOU LOVE YOUR WORK?

Have you read the letter of Mr. H. M. Daniel, of Madison County, in this week's paper? There is a tonic, an invigorating quality, about his letters that it is good to find anywhere. He loves his work. And never yet has any man really succeeded in any sort of business who didn't put his heart as well as his head and hand into his daily tasks. There is no more hope for the half-hearted farmer than there is for the half-hearted merchant or half-hearted drummer. Listen to Mr. Daniel: "I am heartily sorry for any man who is farming for money merely. I would as soon marry money. Either condition, it seems to me, would approach very near the height and depth of human misery. Next to my sweetheart wife, I love my farming, and my pride and joy in its products is next to that I take in our happy, healthy children. I study its care and management, its interest and well being, present and future, almost as I study theirs." But it almost invariably happens that the man who has this sort of pride in his farm is the man who gets both money and contentment as a reward for his labors. Give us more farmers of the Daniel type!

#### HOW WE GROW.

Between January 1st and April 24th, The Progressive Farmer received

New subscribers ..... 1,507  
In the same period we lost from our list.... 252  
Net gain to April 24th ..... 1,255

And if our subscribers will only continue the campaign among their friends, we shall end 1904 with twice as many subscribers as we had at the beginning. Every reader ought to send us a club of three under our 50-cent proposition. Try it.

#### THIS WEEK'S PAPER—SOME RANDOM COMMENTS.

Prof. Kilgore discusses this week the proper fertilization of peanuts. The peanut industry is quite an important one in the northeastern section of our State, and we hope to give it more attention in the future than heretofore. And the "goober" market is now quite satisfactory.

Dr. H. F. Freeman, J. H. Parker, Blake Johnston, H. M. Daniel—all these are represented in our columns this week, and it would be hard to find in all the South four farmers whose letters are more practical and helpful to their brother-farmers. It is a group of contributors that any farm paper in the country might well be proud of, and The Progressive Farmer is proud of them, and our readers share our pleasure at the increasing frequency of their letters.

We should like to have other farmers report their experience with spraying, home-mixed fertilizers, improved farm implements, etc., as Mr. Daniel has done. Whenever you find any subject discussed about which you can give further information or about which you desire further information, write to us.

The dust-board suggestion on page 2 is one that ought to be very generally adopted. Try it.

Dr. Burkett continues his discussion of feeding problems. And it will be observed that he is making some excellent suggestions for feeding human beings, as well as horses and cattle, in the course of his articles. They deserve careful study.

We never neglect the poultry interests, and we take pleasure in giving on page 3 a paper of excellent general suggestions on "Poultry Raising on the Farm." Mr. Jeffrey speaks as one having authority.

In our series of North Carolina Poems we come this week to the work of Prof. Benjamin Sledd, professor of English literature in Wake Forest College since 1888. Prof. Sledd has published two volumes of verse—"From Cliff and Scour" issued in 1897 and "The Watchers of the Hearth" in 1901. We are glad to learn that he will probably bring out another volume this year—"Idylls of the Old South." Its coming will be eagerly awaited by the many friends of the Wake Forest poet.

And John Charles McNeill, who has lately figured so creditably in our roll of North Carolina poets, shows this week that he can speak in prose quite as effectively as in verse. His treatise on "Sissyism" is not only full of genuine humor, but is racy of the soil. When Mr. McNeill goes on to describe the remedies, picturing the bull-tongue hung under the dogwood root and the mule "squatting to it"—well, it is very clear that Mr. McNeill has had actual experience with a "new ground" on a North Carolina farm.

We heartily commend to our readers the article on page 11, "Get Rid of the Mosquito." The annual loss to North Carolina in labor, medical services, etc., through malaria is enormous, and there should be no let up in the campaign against the mosquito. Our country doctors especially should thoroughly inform themselves upon this subject and urge its importance upon all their patrons.

Our Young People's Page, as usual, contains matter of interest to old as well as young. "Benny's Composition on the Hen" being notably good.

Taken altogether, we think that the subscriber will find two cents worth of good reading in this number. The subscription price is a little less than that. If you are not a subscriber, you cannot afford to do without the paper; if you are a subscriber, remember we cannot afford to do without the small subscription price.